

From [Jim and Linda <reinhart@xyz.net>](mailto:reinhart@xyz.net)  
Sent Thursday, June 17, 2004 9:05 pm  
To [Local Boundry Commission <lbc@dced.state.ak.us>](mailto:lbc@dced.state.ak.us)  
Cc  
Bcc  
Subject KESA Remand  
Attachments [LBC Letter - Remand.doc](#)

23K

---

Homer, Alaska

June 18, 2004

Dear Sirs,

I am writing concerning the remand for the consideration of the effects of the Homer annexation on the Kenai Emergency Service Area. Unfortunately, this was the only issue ordered re-addressed. There were many other procedural failures as well, but I will hold my comments to the subject of KESA.

I was active in the promotion of the vote favoring the KESA. That proposition, put on the ballot October 3, 2000, won with 80% of the votes cast. We promoted it with a map generated from the Kenai Peninsula Borough showing the area included in the Homer annexation and using the property values included in that annexation as part of the new fire service area.

By forming a Fire Service Area we had expected to pool our tax resources and provide ourselves more immediate and reliable fire and emergency services protection. Ever since the Homer Volunteer Fire Department was turned over to the City of Homer, some of us had been seeing the provision of those services to our outlying areas by the City of Homer as a temporary solution. Several people, such as our Borough Assembly Representatives Marie Walli and Milli Martin, had been working with the borough for some time to establish our own Fire Service Area and the successful vote on October 3, 2000 was the culmination of those efforts.

When the LBC creamed off the most highly valued properties and gave them to the City of Homer, our fledgling KESA was suddenly bereft of much of its anticipated revenue. This hardship has slowed ? perhaps stopped ? our efforts to become wholly self-sufficient and certainly hampered our ability to acquire equipment and buildings. It has left us with less protection than we need; less than we expected to have when we formed our Service Area.

We will still do our best to protect ourselves, but the LBC's granting of our main tax base to the City of Homer has been a big set-back in our ability to do that. You remember the story about the French Queen, Marie-Antionette, just before their Revolution, when she saw hungry peasants rioting, questioned, "Why are they rioting?" Her minister answered, "Because they have no bread." The Queen haughtily replied, "Let them eat cake!" ? "cake" being the black tarry substance that accumulated on the flues of the wood burning bread ovens of the period. This is the very substance that causes chimney fires, a major cause of house fires in our area. Surely the LBC did not intend to dismiss our need as cavalierly as Marie-Antoinette did her starving subjects?. However, we are left with greatly diminished revenue as a result of their failure.

In your reconsideration, please redress this wrong. Give us back our tax base. Stripping the KESA of its most affluent properties was not in the best interests of the population served, nor was it the expressed, voted desire of those people.

Sincerely Yours,

Linda S. Reinhart

PO Box 834

Homer, Alaska 99603

Homer, Alaska  
June 18, 2004

Dear Sirs,

I am writing concerning the remand for the consideration of the effects of the Homer annexation on the Kenai Emergency Service Area. Unfortunately, this was the only issue ordered re-addressed. There were many other procedural failures as well, but I will hold my comments to the subject of KESA.

I was active in the promotion of the vote favoring the KESA. That proposition, put on the ballot October 3, 2000, won with 80% of the votes cast. We promoted it with a map generated from the Kenai Peninsula Borough showing the area included in the Homer annexation and using the property values included in that annexation as part of the new fire service area.

By forming a Fire Service Area we had expected to pool our tax resources and provide ourselves more immediate and reliable fire and emergency services protection. Ever since the Homer Volunteer Fire Department was turned over to the City of Homer, some of us had been seeing the provision of those services to our outlying areas by the City of Homer as a temporary solution. Several people, such as our Borough Assembly Representatives Marie Walli and Milli Martin, had been working with the borough for some time to establish our own Fire Service Area and the successful vote on October 3, 2000 was the culmination of those efforts.

When the LBC creamed off the most highly valued properties and gave them to the City of Homer, our fledgling KESA was suddenly bereft of much of its anticipated revenue. This hardship has slowed – perhaps stopped – our efforts to become wholly self-sufficient and certainly hampered our ability to acquire equipment and buildings. It has left us with less protection than we need; less than we expected to have when we formed our Service Area.

We will still do our best to protect ourselves, but the LBC's granting of our main tax base to the City of Homer has been a big set-back in our ability to do that. You remember the story about the French Queen, Marie-Antionette, just before their Revolution, when she saw hungry peasants rioting, questioned, "Why are they rioting?" Her minister answered, "Because they have no bread." The Queen haughtily replied, "Let them eat cake!" – "cake" being the black tarry substance that accumulated on the flues of the wood burning bread ovens of the period. This is the very substance that causes chimney fires, a major cause of house fires in our area. Surely the LBC did not intend to dismiss our need as cavalierly as Marie-Antoinette did her starving subjects'. However, we are left with greatly diminished revenue as a result of their failure.

In your reconsideration, please redress this wrong. Give us back our tax base. Stripping the KESA of its most affluent properties was not in the best interests of the population served, nor was it the expressed, voted desire of those people.

Sincerely Yours,  
Linda S. Reinhart

PO Box 834  
Homer, Alaska 99603